Format

- Different photographic processes and formats were used during different time periods.
- Identifying the format and/or process can help provide a date range.



Dating Photographs

Photographer/ Studio

- Check the bottom or the back of the photo for any information on the photographer or studio.
- If a name is provided, research it and see if you can determine how long this person or studio was in business.

➤ Be on the lookout for things like props, cars, signs, buildings, etc., as these can help determine a date.

Details

> Pay close attention to any

items in the photo.

People

- Examine the people in the photo and look closely at hairstyles, clothing, and ages.
- Clothing and hairstyles changed frequently over the years.
- ➢ If you know the person in the photo, ask yourself: How old does he/she look? Compare that to known dates (like birth, death, marriage, etc.).





Format

- Graphics Atlas www.graphicsatlas.org
- Types of Photographs (Northeast Document Conservation Center) http://bit.ly/NEDCCphotos
- Dating Photographs by Format and Technology (University of Washington) http://bit.ly/UofWPhotos
- Identifying the Era of a Photo by Its Type (Ancestral Findings) http://bit.ly/anfphoto
- Dating Historic Images (University of Vermont) http://bit.ly/Vermontphotos

Details

Dating Historic Images (University of Vermont) – http://bit.ly/Vermontphotos

Photographer/ Studio

- Kolbe, Robert, and Brian Bade. 2006. *They Captured the Moment: Dakotas Photographers 1853-1920.* Sioux Falls, S.D.: Pine Hill Press. www.worldcat.org/oclc/71213216
- Wisconsin Photographers Index (Wisconsin Historical Society) http://bit.ly/WisconsinPhotos
- Directory of Minnesota Photographers (Minnesota Historical Society) www.mnhs.org/people/photographers

People

- Dating Historic Images (University of Vermont) http://bit.ly/Vermontphotos
- Dating Vintage Photographs by Clothing and Hairstyles (She Knows) http://bit.ly/sheknowphoto
- Hairstyles and Clothing of the 19th Century (Ancestral Findings) http://bit.ly/anfphoto